1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5014 **Kathgodam- Delhi Ranikhet Express**								
Jul-08	508	2987	2162	13557	442569	1870405	1127288	2823834
Aug-08	539	2984	2187	14095	469731	1865232	1120818	2926686
Sep-08	290	1724	1290	7949	250236	1036517	630268	1575203
Oct-08	526	2983	2225	14718	450627	1789872	1121552	3338362
Nov-08	142	831	637	4191	122677	482530	299882	912352
Dec-08	230	1440	1098	6699	211060	891088	568097	1524905

Trouble in cleaning of platforms in Kolkata

†662.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some organized persons are creating trouble for the railway officials of Kolkata in cleaning platforms;

(b) whether the said people belong to any union;

(c) whether the railway officials have sought help of the State Government; and

(d) whether the services of the Railway Protection Force are being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In Kolkata area of Sealdah Division, Eastern Railway almost all the platforms have been occupied by unauthorized hawkers/vendors under the banner of different Union groups like CiTUS, INTUC, INTTUC, TUCC etc., and they are creating trouble for Railway Officials in cleaning the platforms.

(c) From time to time, meetings have been held with State Administration in connection with eviction of unauthorized hawkers/encroachers from the platforms, circulating areas in the Railway premises. But the help rendered by State Administration is not proving against the unionized/organized bodies as Law & Order problems break out whenever such programmes are undertaken.

(d) Services of Railway Protection Force is being taken but due to immense problem of Law & Order occurring in such eviction programmes, the efforts of RPF has not brought the desired results.

Hike in railway freight rates

663. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have hiked the freight rates of essential foodgrain items by more than 8 per cent through a notification;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the prices of, essential food articles are bound to take a hike thereby causing hardships to the common man;

(c) what steps are being taken to contain the prices and prevent the inflationary trend in the market; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) what is the main reason to hike the freight rate when Government has announced cut in fuel rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At an average lead of 1293 kms., the impact of increase in freight rate works out to 7.60 paise per kg. It is expected that this increase will be absorbed in the wholesale price and will not affect the common man.

(d) The main reason is to meet with additional financial burden caused by increase in input costs and ordinary working expenses as a result of substantial increase in Wholesale Price Index and pay package burden due to 6th Pay Commission.

Increase in freight charges due to change in category of commodities

†664.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently decided that category of certain commodities be changed/from 120 to 130 from 1st February, 2009;

(b) if so, the commodities whose categories have been changed under this decision;

(c) the percentage increase in freight charges of these items that would come into effect due to this change; and

(d) the reasons for changing the categories of these commodities at this time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The commodities are (i) Chemical Manures and (ii) Foodgrains, Flours and Pulses.

(c) 8.33%.

(d) The main reason is to meet with additional financial burden caused by increase in input costs and ordinary working expenses as a result of substantial increase in Wholesale Price Index and pay package burden due to 6th Pay Commission.

Upgradation of reservation counter at Press Club

665. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is thinking of upgrading the Press Club reservation counter, New Delhi, for reason that it is always crowded; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) An analysis of the reservation requests being dealt with at Reservation centre at Press Club has revealed that the same does not justify opening of additional window at this reservation counter.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.